



GAMMA PHONE

MICHIGAN GAMMA CHAPTER OF SIGMA ALPHA EPSILON • MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY



Brothers gather for the colony pledge ceremony in April.

MICHIGAN GAMMA COLONY CONTINUES RECHARTERING EFFORTS

Actives Appreciate Alumni Support

I was and born and raised around the Sigma Alpha Epsilon atmosphere thanks to my father, **Bruce Traverse '73**, a founding father and past Eminent Archon of Michigan Zeta at Ferris State University. In September 2011, my father and I contacted the National Fraternity with the interest of bringing Michigan Gamma back to Michigan State University. In February 2012, I started an interest group of 29 men. In April, we were approved by the National Fraternity, Michigan State University, and the Interfraternity Council to come back to campus. On Sunday, April 29, 2012, Michigan Gamma underwent its colony pledge ceremony that included more than 40 alumni, family, and friends.

Undergraduates Promote Fraternal Standards

The men of the Michigan Gamma colony want to do something different from other fraternity men on our campus and nationwide. We want a stronger emphasis on values-based fraternity life: promoting the highest standards of friendship, scholarship, and service. Our colony has created a completely haze-free environment in order to show our campus and our community that hazing isn't what proves loyalty and brotherhood between one another. We are working on creating academic rewards and incentives and promoting a higher standard of requirements to become part of Michigan Gamma. We want to exceed in everything and prove that True Gentleman still exist on today's campus.

Academic Excellence Important to Michigan Gamma

Most fraternities on MSU's campus require a minimum 2.5 GPA to join, some are higher, some are lower. The leadership of our chapter

set an academic standard that all new members must have a 3.0 GPA to be considered for membership. We hope to further increase this GPA requirement to attract the highest of scholars that attend Michigan State. We are also looking to create new scholarship awards in honor of past Michigan Gammas that made major contributions to our chapter.

Leaders Look Forward to New Member Class

Our recruitment chairmen, **Adam Beckerleg '14**, and our other chapter members have done an outstanding job reaching out to undergraduates who we believe would be a great fit in our fraternity's system and as members of Michigan Gamma. We are full of confidence and look forward to what this year's pledge class will contribute.

Alumni Encouraged to Get Involved

We couldn't be happier to be back on campus and working toward our biggest goal—earning our charter back. Each brother looks forward to contributing to MSU's campus and the city of East Lansing. We would like to welcome and encourage the appearance and communication with alumni. Alumni support can only help our experience and progress, so please feel welcome to stop by anytime.

Fraternally,
Bryce Traverse '14
Eminent Archon
Travers7@msu.edu



Alumni Provide Funding for 77th Leadership School

Undergraduates Learn Lessons Aboard ΣAE Cruise

This summer, more than 700 undergraduates, alumni, Sigma Alpha Epsilon staff and faculty met on Royal Caribbean's Majesty of the Seas for the 77th Leadership School. With the support of alumni, 11 undergraduates from Michigan Gamma were able to attend. These men spent the week exploring their leadership abilities, learning new skills, and interacting with interesting undergraduates and alumni from around the world.

The five-day cruise set sail from the Port of Miami, Florida, on August 6, making its way through the Caribbean. The undergraduates were able to disembark in Nassau, Bahamas, enjoying tourist destinations and excursions in town.

World-renowned speakers and leadership programming were available for all in attendance, and the men were able to take advantage of the cruise ship's many on-board services and amenities. Brothers also enjoyed a nightly coat-and-tie dinner with the entire Leadership School delegation.

Thank you to the alumni who provided funding for the 11 men of Michigan Gamma who were able to attend.

- Robert A. Leich '61**
- Henry Tollette '62**
- Richard J. Metzler '63**
- Stephen L. Hickman '64**
- Frederick J. Kleisner '66**
- Ronald D. Reame '67**
- Christopher J. Mundy '96**
- Bruce M. Rothschild '98**
- Gregory P. Somers '98**
- L. Chase Winsman '00**
- Oneil Franso, Oakland University '06**



Michigan Gamma sent 11 representatives to Leadership School in August on board Royal Caribbean's Majesty of the Seas.

ENSURING YOUR INVESTMENT

The Sigma Alpha Epsilon Financial & Housing Corporation empathizes and concurs with those who have expressed the need to ensure that our investment in Michigan Gamma, at Michigan State University, is carefully protected over the years. To ensure that our investment is secure, the "best practices" outlined below have been discussed by myself and other leaders at the national ΣAE Financial and Housing Corporation. Many are already being employed, and many will be implemented within the coming months.

1. We have developed policies and standards regarding property management and the appropriate/acceptable uses of the chapter house. At minimum, policies regarding social events and resident-initiated remodeling will be included. These policies will be adopted and enforced by the Financial and Housing Corporation and the undergraduate chapter.
2. House bills will be competitive with the other fraternities on campus. Michigan Gamma has a premium facility and should plan to charge a competitive rent in order to live there.
3. We will continue to have undergraduate rent paid in advance, either on an annual or semester basis. Doing so helps the Michigan Gamma avoid potential collection problems and keep cash flow flush.
4. We will continue to charge and collect a "parlor fee" from any live-out members to help cover the costs of wear and tear, maintenance, and replacement for the chapter facility. This fee shall not be prohibitive, but will help to service some of the maintenance fund depreciation.
5. We will continue to assess a membership deposit and consider raising it from \$250 to a minimum of \$450. Contracts and membership deposits will be collected from each undergraduate before he is permitted to move into the chapter house. Refunds of membership deposits will not be made until damage and professional cleaning costs have been deducted, the member has property checked out and graduates.
6. We will continue to review the building insurance and property taxes at a minimum of once every other year in order to see if either can be successfully lowered, and to make sure policies are adequate to cover any losses.

These steps and procedures are necessary to properly manage the facility and ensure Michigan Gamma is a viable organization at Michigan State University for years to come.

Jonathan Sharp
Property Manager
ΣAE Financial & Housing Corporation



Michigan Gamma Officers

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Bryce Traverse '14
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travers7@msu.edu

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Mathew Temrowski '14
Grosse Pointe, Mich.

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becker68@msu.edu

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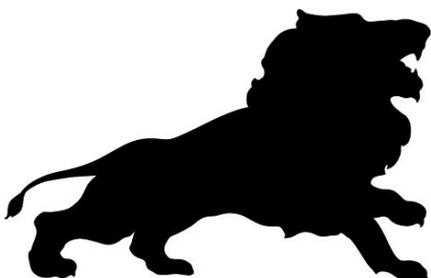
Michael Wilk '15
Sterling Heights, Mich.

Pledge Educator

Nick Faiver '14
Grosse Pointe, Mich.

Chapter Advisor

Benjamin Baxter '12
Jensen Beach, Fla.
baxterbe@msu.edu



Alumnus Succeeds as Entrepreneur *Shaun Black '98 Stays in Touch with Michigan Gamma Brothers*

Shaun Black '98 has known about Sigma Alpha Epsilon his entire life. Shaun's grandfather, **Durrill Moynihan Black, University of Wyoming '34**, and his great-grandfather, **William Byron Black, University of Kansas '19**, were both members of the fraternity. After transferring to Michigan State University after two years at the University of Toledo, Shaun knew he wanted to be part of Michigan Gamma Chapter.



After joining the chapter in 1995, Shaun said he was thrust into leadership roles, serving as social chairman and vice president. "Looking back now, it was like being involved in a business with friends. It was the first step in my maturation in becoming an entrepreneur and a leader. I was part of a group of people and an organization that I was proud of," he said. "It was my first experience having to be a grown-up and the voice of reason. I had to accept more responsibility and be a leader."

Shaun said that upon graduating with a degree in advertising, he was still unsure of what he wanted to do. He took a job as a produce brokerage salesperson and moved to Chicago in 2001 where he started his own business two years ago, Lemon Tree Grocer. The compa-

ny's website says "At Lemon Tree Grocer, we collectively have decades of experience in the culinary world. We're passionate about food and are here to help—whether you're looking for locally sourced fresh produce, the perfect wine pairing, healthy meals for kids, a choice cut of meat, or artisanal cheeses from around the world."

Within the company, Shaun's primary role is marketing the store. "I'm one of the lucky few people that found something I was good at right out of college," he said. "(College students) might not know what they want to do and they bounce around. That could have easily been me, but I consider myself fortunate. I was able to make the most of it."

While owning his company takes up most of his time, Shaun stays in touch with his fraternity brothers, whether through an annual tailgate or a fantasy football league. "I'm not one of the better fantasy football players, but it's still a lot of fun to stay in touch," he said.

Shaun and his girlfriend, Kelli Zink, *Alpha Phi, Michigan State University*, live in Chicago. To learn more about Lemon Tree Grocer, visit www.lemontreegrocer.com. E-mail Shaun at sblackness@yahoo.com.

Colony Advisor Proud of Undergraduate Members

It is an honor and a privilege to serve as advisor for the Michigan Gamma Colony of Sigma Alpha Epsilon. I am an alumnus of the Florida Beta Chapter at Florida State University and have moved to East Lansing to continue my education at the Michigan State University College of Law. **I look forward to helping these young men gain their charter and bring this chapter back to prominence.** We hope to move the colony into the chapter house for the 2013-14 school year.

These undergraduates have demonstrated exceptional enthusiasm. I know that with the help of our astounding alumni, we can help this colony attain their charter. I encourage you to come meet these young men and see for yourself that they exemplify the True Gentleman in every way possible. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

In the Bonds,

Benjamin J. Baxter, Florida Beta '12
Colony Advisor / baxterbe@msu.edu

ALUMNI CALL FOR ASSISTANCE

**George B. Ferguson '40
Gift Benefits Michigan
Gamma Undergraduates**

In 2006, George B. Ferguson '40 bequeathed a \$50,000 gift in his will to the ΣAE Foundation. A portion of the gift went to the ΣAE Foundation general fund and part of it was restricted to benefit the undergraduates of Michigan Gamma. This is how the Michigan Gamma Chapter Education Fund was started. The Michigan Gamma Chapter Education Fund is a fund at the ΣAE Foundation that pays 5% of the principal balance each year toward scholarships for Michigan Gamma chapter members. This fund has already helped pay for more than 12 men to attend the annual ΣAE Leadership School.

We would like to personalize the gift that Brother Ferguson left for Michigan Gamma, but we need your help. If you have any stories, personal information, or memories about George, please e-mail Greg Somers at gsomers@SAE.net.

Spartan Football

Sept. 29 vs. Ohio State

Oct. 6 at Indiana

Oct. 13 vs. Iowa

Oct. 20 at Michigan

Oct. 27 at Wisconsin

Nov. 3 vs. Nebraska

Nov. 17 vs. Northwestern

Nov. 24 at Minnesota

Websites

Michigan Gamma
www.michiganstatesae.org

Sigma Alpha Epsilon
www.sae.net

Michigan State University
www.msu.edu



GAMMA PHONE

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Michigan Gamma Launches Alumni Relations Program

Upon graduating from MSU, we all leave ΣAE with high hopes of keeping our fraternal bonds intact. Unfortunately, we quickly find that many new interests—careers, families, and civic activities—can create valid diversions. The day-to-day activities of life take over and, before long, we fall out of touch and begin to wonder what happened to our brothers. Without a solid alumni relations program in place, our members lack the means for staying connected to the Fraternity.

With this in mind, our annual alumni relations program is designed to help our members stay in touch and to cultivate awareness and involvement in Michigan Gamma. There are several elements that are key to the program's success.

We will mail two newsletters each year containing alumni news, information on upcoming events, reports on various chapter activities, and current lists of undergraduate and alumni officers. The fall and spring newsletter also contain a list of all those who have contributed to the annual appeals.

After the fall and spring newsletter, we will send out an appeal to help support the chapter. Due to the various giving patterns of our members, we have found that two appeals each year are far more

successful than just one. Many alumni choose to contribute each time they receive a solicitation, while others would rather give a larger gift on an annual basis. We also realize that, occasionally, members will misplace the first appeal and the second one gives them another opportunity to support the chapter. The contributions received as a result of these semi-annual appeals not only help sustain the alumni relations program, but also provide funds for house maintenance, and the ΣAE Educational Foundation.

Once a year, we will send out a biographical update that allows alumni to update the information we have on record. These updates also provide the information for one of the most popular features in the newsletters, the "Alumni News" section. Altogether, the updates are a vital tool in maintaining our records and our ties with one another.

We hope that through the Michigan Gamma annual alumni relations program your fraternal bonds are regularly renewed and strengthened. We are always interested in hearing from you, so if you have any suggestions, alumni news, or ideas for articles, please submit them to Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Michigan Gamma Housing LLC, 1856 Sheridan Rd., Evanston, IL 60201-3837.